

CALIFORNIA VICTIM/WITNESS ADVOCATE TRAINING PROGRAM

Component: 40.20.451

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

California Penal Code §13835.10 statutorily mandates Cal OES to establish a statewide victim assistance training program. The purpose of which is to establish minimum training and selection standards. The California Victim/Witness Advocate Training (TP) Program is structured as a collaborative partnership of the California Crime Victim Assistance Association, the California District Attorneys Association and Cal OES. The TP Program is tasked to develop and implement a centralized training delivery model. A formal reassessment is anticipated every five years, to accommodate the diversity of victim service needs in the State of California, further develop, modify and implement current, comprehensive and innovative training curricula for continued statewide training to Victim/Witness Assistance and Unserved/Underserved Victim Program Advocates.

Scope of Work:

- Delivery of quality technical training for all Victim/Witness Assistance and Unserved/Underserved Victim Program Advocates, for the delivery of comprehensive services utilizing best practices and trauma informed care to victims of violent crime.
- In the developmental phase of each course of training; convene a panel of subject matter experts (SME) to guide the update/development of the training curriculum.
- Develop and integrate a performance-based training program merging validated elements of existing curricula, introduce knowledge of emerging crime trends, and implement best practices adapting to changes in the criminal justice system to ensure the delivery of comprehensive victim services.
- The minimum training standards call for a 40-hour entry-level victim advocate training course. Additionally, the TP Program offers the following levels of training: 16 hours of non-entry level continuing education specialized curricula, a 24-hour management/supervisory specialized curricula, a 16-hour course of advanced victim advocate training and a 16-hour training of trainer program.
- The Program must explore alternative teaching modalities including webinars, tele-conferencing and DVD trainings.
- Trainings will be free of charge and available to all Victim/Witness Assistance and Unserved/Underserved Victim Program Advocates affiliated with federal, state, county and/or non-profit organizations.
- A follow-up evaluation component will be utilized to measure the effectiveness of all trainers and the trainings at each level.
- Develop an annual training needs assessment requiring Victim/Witness Centers statewide to submit annual training plans.

FUNDS AWARDED

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Types of Funding</u>	<u>Total Funding</u>
FY 2013/14	Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) FFY 11	\$ 61,628
	VOCA FFY 13	\$ 260,000
FY 2014/15	VOCA FFY 14	\$ 210,000
FY 2015/16	Unknown	

2013/14 PERFORMANCE STATISTICS

- The training committee, comprised of representatives from the California Crime Victim Assistance Association, the California District Attorneys Association, and Cal OES, in conjunction with the curriculum development consultant, developed the training curriculum for the 16-hour advanced victim advocacy course which will be piloted in FY 2014/15.
- One 40-hour entry-level victim advocate training course was conducted for 50 registered participants. Additionally, a waiting list of 20 participants was initiated. Two 40-hour entry level victim advocate trainings are scheduled to be conducted during FY 2014/15.
- One 24-hour management/supervisory specialized curricula course was conducted for 18 Victim/Witness and/or Unserved/Underserved Victim Program Coordinator/Supervisors.
- One 16-hour training-of-trainers course was conducted for 19 potential instructors drawn from the Victim/Witness field. These participants received specialized training designed to teach the 40-hour entry-level victim advocate training curriculum, enhance presentation skills, and better understand adult learning methods. During FY 2014/15, a select group of these participants will be incorporated as instructors into the TP Program.
- Six continuing education webinars were conducted to fulfill the requirement of the 16 hours of non-entry level yearly specialized curricula of continuing education on advanced topics.
- The UC Berkeley Chief Justice Earl Warren Institute on Law and Social Policy completed a survey of victim/witness certification programs nationwide. Key components were identified, issues for consideration were compiled and recommendations made for possible certification. Additionally, a Victim Advocate Code of Ethics was developed and introduced to the Victim/Witness field.

2014/15 PERFORMANCE STATISTICS

Not Available

2015/16 PERFORMANCE STATISTICS

Not Applicable